

From: Mike Fowler
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
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I continue to watch with much curiosity the on-going dilemma between various states and the DOJ regarding the above class action suit and as always, try to follow the money. Of all the class-action suits that I have been aware of or had the unfortunate experience to have been part and party, the only individuals or business who profited were attorneys and accounting groups. It appears to me that because there have been no other companies who have been able to develop programs that are both functionally and price competitive with Microsoft's programs, it appears that these remaining states are simply holding out for money to fill their coffers. Our organization is a medium size business with approximately 200 personnel and we have used and relied on Microsoft products for more than 5 years and have been extremely satisfied with their products and services. It would be much simpler if these states would just cut to the chase and tell Microsoft how much money they want so that this suit can finally end once and for all. No individual I have spoken to who uses Microsoft products has any idea that they will receive or have ever received any compensation from a class-action suit. Individually one person (if they can verify they purchased a piece of software) will receive only a small return of monies from a suit of this sort. On the other hand, the attorneys are likely to receive millions, tens of millions or more from a settlement. For the most part, the only people interested in this suit (especially since 9/11/2001) are those states who stand to gain millions for their state coffers....I think they care little or nothing about individuals or businesses. Settle this stupid suit and let's get on with more important matters (such as the obvious fraud associated with the fall of Enron - some blame needs to be laid on investment companies who follow and report on these types of companies and continue to encourage investors to buy their stocks, Arthur Anderson, and those executives who led people astray while dumping their own stock). It's time to move on.

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